

Notice of Allowability

Applicant No.

10/602,271

Examiner

DHIRU R PATEL

Applicant(s)

SHOTEY ET AL

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/23/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 31-50.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH or DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1~~5~~ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2~~6~~ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3~~7~~ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. 1103
- 4~~8~~ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5~~9~~ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6~~0~~ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- 7~~1~~ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8~~2~~ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9~~3~~ Other

DHIRU R PATEL
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2831

Dhiru R Patel 11/17/03

Part III DETAILED ACTION

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 11/6/2003 claiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of approved application number 6, 583,358 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 31-50 are the inclusion therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation of a portion of the cover plate comprising a set of removable tabs having at least one removable tab, the set of removable tabs connected to the base and the set of removable tabs being bounded by a tab set periphery line (for claims 31-36), a first set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the first set of removable tabs being bounded by a first tab set periphery line (for claims 37-43), and the first set comprising at least one removable tab integral with the substantially planar member and connected to the substantially planar member by at least one groove connector (for claims 44-50). The previously listed limitations are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Art Unit: 2831

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dhiru Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308 - 3748. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays- Thursdays from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard be reached at 703-308-3682. The fax number for this Group is 703-305-3431. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Dhiru Patel
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2831
November 17, 2003

Dhiru Patel
Primary Examiner
11/17/03